

News from the City of Greenville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUBLIC INVITED TO POETRY SLAM IN REEDY RIVER FALLS PARK

April is National Poetry Month and the City of Greenville is celebrating the occasion with a special “Poetry in the Park” event Saturday, April 28 at 2:00 p.m. at Reedy River Park on the corner of Camperdown Way and N. Main St. The event centers on an open mic and poetry slam as well as a feature reading by performance poet Glenis Redmond.

“Slams are all about the spoken word,” said local poet Vera Gomez who is managing and hosting the event. “It’s nice to see the city sponsor a poetry event that focuses on original lyric writing that is spoken. An added draw is that slams attract a really diverse crowd.”

Both Gomez and Redmond were on the Greenville Poetry Slam Team that won Southeast Regional Competition in 1998 and placed in National competition in 1997. Redmond is currently a poet-in-residence and teaches throughout the Southeast, most recently at Mauldin High School.

A poetry slam is based on three rounds of competitive readings. Poets compete by orally reading their poems to a group of judges randomly picked from the audience. Poets are then scored on a scale of 1-to-10 based on the appeal of the poem. Slam rules are simple. All poetry must be original and time under three minutes. No props are allowed and poets cannot recite the same poem. The two poets with the highest accumulated score make it to the finals. “Poetry in the Park” will award sizeable slam prizes. First place winner is awarded \$400, second place is \$200 and third place is \$100.

“Slams are really energizing and electric,” adds Gomez. “You may not hear lots of sonnets and haiku, but the audience will see a broad spectrum of talent. The best thing for me as a poet is that it’s a venue to take my work off the page.”

“Poetry in the Park” starts at 2:00 p.m. and participants are asked to register between 1:30 p.m. and 1:45 p.m. For more information call 467-4485 or 239-0087.

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